



## A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

By John C. Cordell

As November comes to an end and the holiday season builds to a New Year's Day crescendo, I thought it would be a good time to reflect on what we are thankful for and what this season means to so many of us. My family had two "Thanksgiving Days" over the four-day holiday season. On Thanksgiving, as I stood around the table hand-in-hand with other family members, I realized that the holiday isn't just one or two days over a long weekend. Thanksgiving is every day for so many of us, even though we may choose not to recognize it.



We have so many things to be thankful for, and too often we take them for granted. We assume that they will always be there. We assume that the people we love will be there too, until they're gone. Do all of us have bad times? Sure. Do we have difficulty in life? You bet. That's what makes life challenging. And our ability to emerge from those dark times is what makes us human. But on "Black Friday," as I stood in lines and wrestled other customers for those "must-have" toys and gifts, I did so with a different perspective. I made

the choice to realize how thankful I was for the *opportunity* to be able to do so, credit card in hand, cell phone on hip, store after store, aisle after aisle. It was also an opportunity to *share* the experience with my wonderful family.

See **PERSPECTIVE**, Page 8

## PARADE OF PEOPLE

It is no surprise to me that we receive a great deal of information for publication consideration about employees who have done outstanding things in their personal lives, or in their position with the Department of Corrections. This issue is dedicated to ALL of the people who have chosen to follow their passion and make a difference in some aspects of their work or personal life. Articles in "**PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**" start on Page 2 and showcase just a few examples of those who have recently made a difference.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

People Make the Difference .....	2
AKC Agility Trials .....	6
Horsing Around .....	6
Reflections of the JMF Closure ..	7
Defined Contribution Form .....	7
Perspective Cont. ....	8
Winter on the Way .....	8



## PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



### JACKSON PAROLE OFFICE EMPLOYEES RECEIVE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

On October 15, 2007 at the Jackson Parole Office, Michigan State Police Lieutenant Jim Shaw presented Supervisor Noah Nagy with the Michigan State Police Departmental Excellence Award, the highest non-departmental honor the State Police awards, for his assistance in the investigation of a murder suspect in December 2006 while an Agent at Jackson Parole.



Left to Right: Jim Shaw, Noah Nagy, Mike Glynn, John Rubitschun, Todd Boyd, and Sonia Warchock.

Deputy Director John Rubitschun, Regional Administrator Michael Glynn and Deputy Regional Administrator Todd Boyd presented retired Parole Agent Janet Grant and Word Processing



Left to Right: Sonia Warchock, Mike Glynn, John Rubitschun, Vickie Huscio, and Todd Boyd.

Assistant Vicki Huscio with Professional Excellence Awards for their assistance to law enforcement agencies in identifying the suspect (a parolee) wanted in the robbery/murder of the Walgreen's store clerk in Jackson.



Left to Right: Sonia Warchock, Mike Glynn, John Rubitschun, Janet Grant, and Todd Boyd.



### FOA STAFF HELP SHAPE CAREER CHOICES

Midland County Parole Agents Eric Larsen and Paul Gorton recently had the chance to influence career choices of college students. They both attended Delta College's Career Pathways, career exploration fair, held October 26, 2007 at Delta College. The pair discussed opportunities in corrections and the challenges of working in the field of adult probation and parole, and answered many questions from interested students.





## PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



### ATTENTION TO DETAIL LEADS TO PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Linda Matuszak, the Record Office Supervisor at Saginaw Correctional Facility, recently received a Professional Excellence Award for her expertise in records processing. While reviewing a LEIN for a prisoner prior to his parole, Linda noticed that the sentencing information listed for the instant case did not match the sentencing information in the prisoner's file. The LEIN check showed the prisoner's minimum sentence was listed as 5 years, however his record indicated it was much less. The prisoner had served the minimum listed in his file, seen the Parole Board, received a parole date, and was entered into and almost complete with the MPRI program when Linda discovered the discrepancy. Further review of the file revealed that the Judgment of Sentence listed a shorter minimum than that which was listed on the LEIN. Contact with the sentencing court revealed that the time listed on the Judgment of Sentence was incorrect. Had it not been for Linda's vigilance, the prisoner would have been released 17 months early.



Left to Right: Jim MacMeekin, Linda Matuszak, and Jan Trombley

Linda has developed and delivered multiple training sessions, including time computation, LEIN, and audit training. Her work ethic and attention to detail on a day-to-day basis is "routine" for her. Linda has worked hard to become an expert in a field that has little in the way of formal training resources.

---

### PAROLE AGENT EARNS AWARD FOR SEX OFFENDER MANAGEMENT



Left to Right: Lisa Gettys, Director Caruso, John Rubitschun.

Parole Agent Lisa Gettys recently received a Professional Excellence Award for her work with sex offenders in the community. Lisa regularly attends training sessions as a participant and presenter, while being a field resource for judges, prosecutors and other corrections professionals. Director Caruso assisted Deputy Director Rubitschun in presenting a Professional Excellence Award to Agent Gettys. Lisa was recently promoted to supervisor of the Community Residential Program Office in Grandview Plaza.







## PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



### JOE BOUCHARD WINS 2007 IACTP PRESIDENT'S AWARD



Joe holding his  
President's  
Award

On October 14, 2007, MDOC's Joe Bouchard was recognized as the 2007 International Association of Corrections Training Professionals (IACTP) President's Award winner. This award is presented by the IACTP President to one member who, in their opinion, has done outstanding service to the Association that is above what is normally expected. President Kathy Mickle-Askin recognized Joe for his efforts in moving the "Correctional Journal" into an electronic format and for his IACTP Icebreaker 101 book/CD initiative. Bouchard is the Librarian for the Baraga Maximum Correctional Facility.

### BIG WINNER OF "FOOD FIGHT" TRAVELING TROPHY FOR HARVEST GATHERING

It was truly a David and Goliath event — Shiawassee County Probation/Parole/REP, an office staffed with only nine employees, winning the MDOC "Food Fight" traveling trophy. Debbie Talbot stated that they only did it to get a couple of "jean days," but they went over the top with 260 points per staff member.



G. Robert Cotton Correctional Facility also deserves an honorable mention as they collected 101 pounds of canned goods and non-perishable items. Their Employee Club also donated \$250. Next year, they'll be counting points for sure.



Proceeds from the November 1, 2007 Tail Gate Party at the Coldwater complex, combined with food donations, were delivered to the Branch Area Food Pantry in Coldwater as part of the statewide Harvest Gathering. The cash was used to purchase food from the local Sav-A-Lot, which also made a donation. In total, approximately \$1,000 worth of food was delivered to the Pantry.





## **PEOPLE MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**



### **NCF STAFF, LOCAL SCHOOL KIDS TEAM UP FOR PUMPKIN PROJECT**

Last spring, pumpkin seeds donated by NCF staff were distributed to young students in eighteen local elementary schools. The kids planted the seeds in cups and milk cartons, and nurtured the seedlings until NCF staff picked them up. Prisoners and staff then planted and tended to them, and in spite of a rather dry growing season, harvested over 800 full-grown pumpkins. The gourds were returned to the schools in early October, where the kids could then literally see the “fruit” of their labors, most of which no doubt ended up as jack-o-lanterns. Both NCF and school staff, along with the youngsters, agreed that the project was worthwhile and a lot of fun.



### **PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR FENBY AND MULLIKIN**

On September 24, 2007, Inspector Dave Fenby and Classification Director Dave Mullikin were given Professional Excellence Awards by Regional Prison Administrator Ray Wolfe and Warden Blaine Lafler.



Left to Right: *Dave Mullikin, Blaine Lafler, Ray Wolfe, and David Fenby.*

Inspector Fenby has been instrumental in stopping drug smuggling attempts, assaults, and other crimes by utilizing staff and offenders for information. He also enhanced security at the facility including the camera system, radio system, count process, tool control, gate pass program and transportation. Fenby's dedication, honesty, and investment in staff contribute to the smooth operation of the facility.

Classification Director Dave Mullikin received his award for the development of a classification process and auditing systems in addition to being on a variety of committees to enhance daily operations within the facility. Mullikin is recognized for being fair and impartial to both staff and offenders.





## MDOC EMPLOYEE TO COMPETE IN AKC AGILITY INVITATIONAL



Mark Rudd and "Mick" his Rhodesian Ridgeback.

In December, Long Beach, Calif. will be filled with the swiftest, most agile dogs in the nation, vying for the top spot at the prestigious American Kennel Club® Agility Invitational. MDOC employee Mark Rudd and his Rhodesian Ridgeback Mick will be among the contenders.

Mark will compete against the top dogs in the country Dec. 1-2 in Long Beach, Calif. During the event, Mark and Mick will run the timed agility course, off-leash, striving for a perfect score of 100. Any missed obstacles or other mistakes result in penalty faults which are deducted from the score. The AKC Agility Invitational airs 8 p.m., February 10, 2008, on cable television's Animal Planet.

## THE PROCHAZKAS EARN AWARDS FOR "HORISING" AROUND

Last weekend, Char and Dale Prochazka competed in the Great Lakes Team Penning Association (GLTPA) Finals. This horse and rider event allows riders using horses to direct and "herd" young cattle into pens. To accomplish the skill, it takes a very well-trained rider and horse working as a team. Dale won 2 buckles (similar to a trophy in other events) over the course of the two-day events; one for first place in three-person team penning, and the overall champion in his ranking. Another winning MDOC employee who competed in the event was Charles (Chuck) Cowling from St. Louis Correctional Facility. He won overall buckle (champion) in his ranking. Chuck also won Sportsman of the year and most improved rider of the year.



Dale with his horse Hollywood

## LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND HONOR GUARD CELEBRATION

The Michigan Department of Corrections Honor Guard is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. If you are a member, former member, or supporter of the Honor Guard and would like to attend, please contact Lindsay Simmon at [simmonls@michigan.gov](mailto:simmonls@michigan.gov) or John Cordell by phone or e-mail: (517) 373-6245 or [cordeljc@michigan.gov](mailto:cordeljc@michigan.gov).







## REFLECTIONS ON THE JMF CLOSURE

By John Z. Ocwieja

Little did I imagine when I first walked through the gates of the State Prison of Southern Michigan in April of 1976 as a substitute school teacher that I would one day be the warden of its Central Complex, now called Southern Michigan Correctional Facility (JMF). Beyond that I could never have foreseen that I would be the warden who would supervise the closure of the last piece of the old Central Complex.

Well, it's over - the last prisoner has been transferred and the staff have moved on to their new work locations. Some of these staff and the prisoners they supervise had never worked or jailed anywhere else. It will be a period of adjustment for all.

In looking back on the last eight months since the closure was announced, it is amazing that anyone has their sanity. The courts, the Department and the legislature were all making decisions whether or when JMF would close the subject of constant speculation and rumor.

We had our moments and all of us at one time or another reached or exceeded our frustration level. Throughout it all, however,

the staff maintained their professionalism. Their work to maintain safety and security was never compromised. Credit must also be given to the prisoners who were housed at JMF during this closure period. They were faced with uncertainty also, yet their behavior allowed the facility to be managed in a safe, secure and humane manner.

It has been 31 years since I first came to the Department of Corrections. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to have worked with the staff of the Southern Michigan Correctional Facility. Through the last few months these people have demonstrated that they are people of character (and some of you are characters) who keep the safety of the people of Michigan and the safety of the prisoners in your charge in the forefront. While you (JMF employees) may frequently feel that you have been taken for granted, I want to thank you for the work you have done these past months not only for me, but for the Department and for the people of the state of Michigan.

The day that a prison closes is not a sad day, but we can feel sad for the relationships we are leaving behind. I will miss the people who worked at JMF and I appreciate having shared some time with them.

---

## NEW RETIREMENT FORMS FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY EMPLOYEES

The Department of Management and Budget, Office of Retirement Services has a new form available to Defined Contribution 401(k) plan members who are called to active military duty. The form, Application for Military Leave of Absence (R717G), should be used to request service credit and employer contributions to the member's Defined Contribution Retirement Plan during active duty military service performed while a State of Michigan employee. The form can be found under the Forms and Publications section on the State Employees Defined Contribution Plan web site at [www.michigan.gov/orsstatedc](http://www.michigan.gov/orsstatedc).





**PERSPECTIVE**, from Page 1

So this holiday season, challenge yourself to see the value in everything that makes your life what it is. Sip and savor the quenching substance of life from the glass half-full. Be thankful for all that you have and for those you share life with. Embrace the spirit of giving. Value others for their similarities AND their differences. Accept that life is not about what you have; it's about what you give. And when the holidays are over, choose to continue valuing your new-found perspective.

For more information on surviving the holidays, visit any of the following web sites:

- State of Michigan Employee Service Program
  - [http://www.michigan.gov/ose/0,1607,7-143-6097\\_29351---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/ose/0,1607,7-143-6097_29351---,00.html)
- Yahoo.com
  - [http://dir.yahoo.com/Health/Mental\\_Health/Stress\\_Management/Holiday\\_Stress/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Health/Mental_Health/Stress_Management/Holiday_Stress/)
- National Institute of Mental Health
  - <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/index.shtml>

## WINTER ON THE WAY

In case you missed it, Thanksgiving weekend brought measurable snow to many parts of Michigan. Winter is again upon us. The Upper Peninsula has had blizzard conditions recently,



and over 100 fender benders were reported in the Mid-Michigan area as commuters returned home from work Monday, November 26. With that in mind, it's not too early to make sure you are well prepared for the frosty season, which may include "winterizing" you car. Make sure that wiper blades are functioning and in good condition. Check the wiper fluid and replace it with winter blend, made specifically for de-icing windows. Check tires and make sure they have proper tread and traction for winter driving. When traveling long distances, make sure you check current road conditions and have a full tank of fuel. For more tips on winter driving safety, visit

<http://www.roadandtravel.com/automotive/safetysecurity/winterdrivingtips.aspx>.

Share your perspective by  
e-mailing me at  
[cordeljc@michigan.gov](mailto:cordeljc@michigan.gov).

**Corrections and Clarifications:**  
11-14-07 Edition - Athletic Director  
Bob Youngs was mis-identified as  
MAC Referee Harold Deines.  
Central Records Office employee  
Marc Irrer is a General Office  
Assistant.

